



Office of Recovery

Office of Recovery Newsletter | August 6, 2021

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This week's edition of the Office of Recovery Newsletter features a story of how one city in Kansas is using its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, as well as more information on federal funding to assist local Kansas communities. Our Community Impact profile goes in depth about how the city of Long Island, KS is installing a handicap entrance and touchless restroom in its community center with funding received through ARPA. Our Program Spotlight section features a new federal program that can assist Kansas communities with economic recovery and strengthen local economies to withstand future unexpected events. For the latest informational resources available to Kansans, see the "Updates to Services and Support" section of this newsletter.

In addition, the next SPARK meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 11th, 2021 and will focus on confirming the logistics and process around how State Fiscal Recovery Funds will be allocated.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the Office of Recovery website at:

[COVID.ks.gov](https://www.covid.ks.gov)

Community Impact





Using ARPA Funds to Improve Long Island's Community Center

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has allocated funding to each NEU (Non-Entitlement Unit, defined as a city with a population that is less than 50,000) in Kansas that is meant to help cities recover from the impacts of COVID-19. These funds can be used to fit the unique needs of each city, and cities across Kansas are using their funds in creative and impactful ways. Today's newsletter features an example of how the city of Long Island is using its ARPA funds to make improvements to the community center that serves not only the residents of Long Island, but also surrounding towns.

Long Island, KS, will be using its ARPA dollars to install a handicap entrance and touchless restroom in the Long Island Community Center. According to City Clerk Pat Hammond, Long Island was awarded a grant earlier this year to purchase touchless toilets, sinks, soap dispensers and hand dryers. Although the city had purchased everything it needed, the original grant did not include the cost of installation. Receiving the ARPA funding will allow the city to install this equipment and purchase a new door for the entrance to the building. The door will be equipped with an automatic door opener to increase accessibility to the center.

The community center houses the library and doubles as a community party space. Many community events are held here including holiday parties, club meetings, painting classes, summer reading program events and more. The community center was forced to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic but is now hoping to provide a safe and accessible place for citizens to gather with these touchless options. Hammond said that they plan to have the restroom and entrance door installed before their upcoming annual Halloween bash.

For more information about eligible uses for your city's ARPA funding, please attend one of the webinars hosted by the Office of Recovery (RO), or watch past webinars [here](#). You can also join a Q&A session to ask questions directly. These sessions will be held every Thursday at 1 PM CT. You can join any session by clicking [here](#).

Do you already have a plan for your city's funding? Let us know by using the **Contact Us** form in the top right-hand corner of [the RO website](#) and your city could be featured in a future RO newsletter.

Program Spotlight



New Federal Funding to Assist Local Kansas Economies

As part of the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, designed to transform economically distressed communities through substantial investment in regional growth projects. Between 20 and 30 regions across the country will be awarded funding to revitalize their economies. EDA will aid in planning, infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and workforce development.

The Challenge is broken up into two phases:

Phase 1: 50-60 regional coalitions of partnering entities will be awarded ~\$500,000 in funds to develop and support 3 to 8 projects

Phase 2: 20-30 regional coalitions will be awarded \$25 million to \$75 million, and up to \$100 million, to implement the projects described in Phase 1. Entities must be awarded in Phase 1 to be eligible for Phase 2 funding.

Applicants are invited to form regional coalitions to apply for funding, to implement 3 to 8 distinct but related projects in their region. Individuals and for-profit entities are not eligible. Coalitions should work with local industry and community leaders to design a plan to build and scale their projects. Every applying coalition should also designate one institution per project to lead coordination once the implementation phase has been reached.

A potential project example is a manufacturing cluster project, which could use funds to increase regional cargo transit by strengthening their talent pool or building transit facilities.

Phase 1 applications are due **October 19, 2021**. The link to the online application can be found [here](#), along with more information about the funding opportunity.

For more information, please visit the Build Back Better Challenge [website](#). Additionally, for questions regarding the Challenge, please send an email to BuildBackBetter@eda.gov or reach out to EDA Representative Dan Lara at dlara@eda.gov or 303-844-4715 for Kansas-specific inquiries.

Updates to Services and Support



Webinars and Q&A Sessions

For additional support in spending and reporting federal relief funds, please consider attending a webinar or Q&A session hosted by the RO. Upcoming sessions include:

- **August 18: Procurement Best Practices**

Attend this presentation by the Office of Recovery technical assistance advisors to learn about implementing best practices throughout the procurement process.

This webinar will take place Wednesday, August 18 at 11 AM CT. You can register for this webinar [here](#) and access recordings of past webinars on the [RO website](#).

- **Office of Recovery Q&A Sessions**

Join us for an opportunity to ask the Office of Recovery questions about applying for funds, guidance from Treasury, upcoming deadlines, and other topics. These sessions will be held every Thursday at 1 PM CT. You can join any session by clicking here: [Join Q&A Session](#)

American Rescue Plan Act

- The latest version of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on ARPA can be found [here](#).
- Local Governments and State Agencies can find a checklist to use before spending ARPA funds [here](#).

For the latest on how **2020 COVID Relief Funds** are spent, please visit the [Investment Dashboard](#).

Contact the RO

The Office of Recovery is here to offer support and coordination, and staff are available to answer your questions by phone and email. Please visit covid.ks.gov for up-to-date information and resources on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for Kansas residents, businesses, and communities.

(785) 368-8507

[Question/Request Form](#)

Warm Regards,

DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Ed.D.

On behalf of the Office of Recovery, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration

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